

E³UDRES² European University Alliance Statement on the Situation in Ukraine

We, the leaders of partner institutions united within the E³UDRES² European University Alliance strongly condemn the act of the aggression of Russian troops towards Ukraine, express our sympathy with Ukrainian people. Such a terrible deed makes us even more aware of the values behind the European integration and cooperation, as well as the role of European University Alliances. Our institutions have been honoured to pilot the ambitious dream of building a further, integrated level of European higher education institutions, to support students in even stronger reception of European values, to join forces in addressing urgent societal and global challenges.

We commit ourselves to developing further actions in support of Ukrainian academic community.

- Our institutions have taken immediate measures to support their existing students from Ukraine with financial and psychological assistance, offer 20 new study places to young people who had to flee from their country or providing 900 places in student houses in the countries neighbouring with Ukraine. Further offers are under discussion.
- We will seek the way how to support students and academics from Ukraine in their further professional development including invitation to upcoming E³UDRES² activities – like Living Labs, Hackathons and Bootcamps.
- We hope for an early, peaceful solution of the conflict, respecting European values and cooperation. We will be then ready to support Ukrainian universities in their recovery and development, exploring also opportunities how to integrate some of them into our alliance activities.
- Within the circumstances we see even stronger demand to emphasise citizen development and democratic aspect within a mission of higher education, resilience to disinformation and will reflect on civic and democratic competences in our further plans and activities balancing them with professional competences.

We have learnt from our partnership about the strength of joint developments through co-creation. Therefore, we would like to call our students and colleagues from the E³UDRES² partner institutions to propose any relevant actions in support of Ukrainian students and academics.

We also ask the European Commission and the national governments to provide a framework and necessary temporary financial and regulatory provisions which will allow higher education institutions to support and engage our Ukraine peers in higher education community in our activities.

At the end we would like to praise those Russian people who expressed their disagreement with the war, aggression and stand beyond the values mentioned above despite the potential risks.

On behalf of E³UDRES² community the members of the E³UDRES² Executive Board

Hannes Raffaseder

*member of Executive Board, Chief
Research & Innovation Officer,
St. Pölten UAS, Austria*

Marc Vandewalle

*Director General, UC Leuven-Limburg,
Belgium*

Pedro Dominginhos

*President, Polytechnic Institute of
Setúbal, Portugal*

Florin Drăgan

*Rector, Politehnica University of
Timisoara, Romania*

István Szabó

*Vice-Rector, Hungarian University of
Agriculture and Life Sciences, Hungary*

Gatis Kruminis

*Member of the Executive Board,
Vidzeme UAS, Latvia*

1 March 2022



E³UDRES², the Engaged and Entrepreneurial European University as Driver For European Smart And Sustainable Regions, is a European University Alliance bringing together ambitious, flexible, small or medium sized universities and universities of applied sciences from six European countries (AT, BE, HU, LV, PT, RO), strongly anchored in their regions and addressing their communities' needs and development through international cooperation and shared capacities.

www.eudres.eu // office@eudres.eu